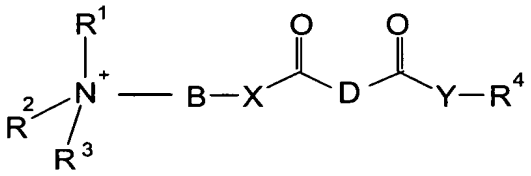
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.(Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting gas hydrate formation in a mixture of hydrocarbon and water, said method comprising adding to the mixture a compound of ~~The use of compounds of the~~ formula (1)



(1)

where

R^1, R^2 are each independently C_1- to C_{22}-alkyl, C_2- to C_{22}-alkenyl, C_6- to C_{30}-aryl or C_7- to C_{30}-alkylaryl,

R^3 is C_1- to C_{22}-alkyl, C_2- to C_{22}-alkenyl, C_6- to C_{30}-aryl or C_7- to C_{30}-alkylaryl, $-CHR^5-COO^-$ or $-O^-$,

R^4 is M, hydrogen or an organic radical having ~~which optionally contains heteroatoms and has~~ from 1 to 100 carbon atoms,

B is ~~an optionally substituted~~ straight-chain or branched C_1- to C_{30}-alkylene group,

D is an organic radical having ~~which optionally contains heteroatoms and has~~ from 1 to 600 carbon atoms,

X, Y are each independently O or NR^6,

R^5, R^6 are each independently hydrogen, C_1- to C_{22}-alkyl, C_2- to C_{22}-alkenyl, C_6- to C_{30}-aryl or C_7- to C_{30}-alkylaryl, and

M is a cation

~~as gas hydrate inhibitors~~.

2.(Currently Amended) The method of ~~use as claimed in~~ claim 1, wherein B contains hydroxyl groups.

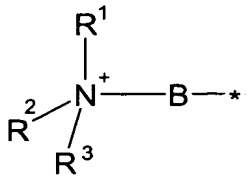
3.(Currently Amended) The method of ~~use as claimed in~~ claim 1 [[and/or 2]], wherein B is a C_2- to C_4-alkylene group.

4.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~use as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein R^1 and R^2 are each independently an alkyl or alkenyl group of from 2 to 14 carbon atoms.

5.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~use as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein R^3 is an alkyl or alkenyl group having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms.

6.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~use as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein R^5 and R^6 are hydrogen.

7.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~use as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 6~~, wherein R^4 is a radical of the formula (2)



(2)

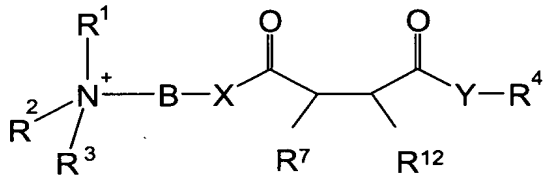
where R^1, R^2, R^3 and B are each as defined in claim 1.

8.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~use as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 7~~, wherein

D is a C_2- to C_{50}-alkylene or C_2- to C_{50}-alkenylene group.

9.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~use as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 7~~, wherein D is derived from substituted succinic acid derivatives having from 10 to 100 carbon atoms.

10.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~use as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 7~~, wherein D is a radical of the formula (3)

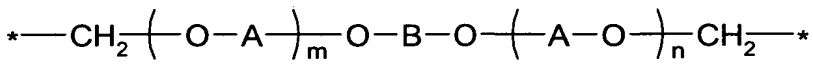


(3)

where

R^7 and R^{12} are each either hydrogen or a C_2- to C_{100}-alkyl or C_2- to C_{100}-alkenyl radical which is obtainable as an oligomer of C_2- to C_8-alkenes and may be straight-chain or branched, with the proviso that exactly one of the R^7 and R^{12} radicals is hydrogen, and R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, X, Y and B are each as defined in claim 1.

11.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~use as claimed in one of more of claims 1 to 7~~, wherein D is a radical of the formula (4)



(4)

where A is a C_2- to C_4-alkylene group which may be straight-chain or branched, m and n are each independently a number in the range from 0 to 30 and B is as defined in claim 1.